



Town of Vienna Transportation Safety Commission

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

BOARD and COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following individuals served on the **Transportation Safety Commission (TSC)** in FY2025: Beth Eachus, Chair, Donna Smith, Vice Chair, Kate French, J. Leonard Ignatowski, Loginn Kapitan, Ken Nahigian, SallyJean Penna, Charlie Strunk and Bets Thomas. Mr. Peter Hartogs stepped down in October 2024. Ms. Bets Thomas was appointed to the TSC in January 2025.

The following individuals serve on the **Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)**: Bets Thomas, Chair, Charlie Strunk, Vice Chair, John Barrett, Kenneth Barry, Elizabeth MacGregor, Jack Thomas and Gulu Gambhir

The following individuals serve on the **Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)**: Donna Smith, Chair, Loginn Kapitan, Vice Chair, Patrick Carney, Catherine Hardman, Brian Land, John M. OKeefe and Gina Womack

MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS

The Transportation Safety Commission met 10 times during the fiscal year 2025. Details of items discussed are included in the summary below.

OVERVIEW

The **Transportation Safety Commission (TSC)** helps the Town work toward its goal of being an efficiently mobile, walkable and bikeable community. The TSC studies issues related to intersections, traffic signs, speed limits and other matters related to street safety and makes recommendations to the Town Council. Through its **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** and **Bicycle Advisory Committee**, the TSC promotes alternative transportation modes and a more walkable/bikeable Vienna.

MOTIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

In FY 2025, the TSC held public hearings on petitions for vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements in the Town of Vienna. Among the motions that were approved and sent to Town Council were actions related to:

- Recommendation that the Town Council consider inclusion of funding in their budget process for high-priority sidewalk projects in accordance with the **Pedestrian Master Plan**.
- Recommendation that Town Council share the gratitude of the TSC for Supervisor Alcorn for his leadership on behalf of Fairfax County in addressing tree removal along the W&OD Trail with Dominion Energy.
- Recommendation that the Town of Vienna continue to support the use of the **Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Guidelines** to evaluate stop sign utilization, with engineering judgement as needed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- The TSC received public comment on a review of Traffic Calming and Safety measures put in place at **Cottage Street and Plum Street SW**. A traffic study and review took place in September and was discussed at an our October 2024 meeting (conducted after the 2024 TSC report). DPW recommends advanced warning pavement markings along Cottage Street for the

pedestrian crossing to help alert drivers of the crosswalks at the intersection. Additionally, the TSC recommended that DPW consider Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) for this intersection. Per Traffic Engineer Andrew Jinks, this did not require a petition or motion to Town Council. Pavement markings and RRFBs pedestrian crossing signals will be installed and then new data will be collected after 6 months to evaluate the effectiveness of these traffic calming measures before moving on to additional measures.

- The TSC received public comment on a review of Traffic Calming and Safety measures put in place at the roadway section of **Ayr Hill Avenue NE** between Park Street NE and Glyndon Street NE. This had been the subject of a previous petition. Due to the elevated volumes, especially during the peak hours, and the narrow nature of the roadway, DPW recommends pavement markings stating "SLOW" along with stencil images of a pedestrian and cyclist. Per Traffic Engineer Andrew Jinks, this would not require a petition or motion to Town Council.

WORK of the TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION:

- The TSC formally requested confirmation from Town Council that the Town's **Pedestrian Master Plan**, Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan should inform and guide the decisions of the TSC and the Town of Vienna including those related to sidewalks.
- The TSC appreciates that the DPW receives requests for **traffic control and safety issues** outside the petition process and may act on certain items directly. The TSC has respectfully asked if the regulatory work DPW is planning could be included in the DPW Memo to TSC each month to keep the TSC informed in case there are questions from the public. Additionally, the TSC plans to update the **Street Safety guide** to reflect this process.
- The TSC provided feedback on the **Town of Vienna Strategic Plan** during a session with Planning and Zoning Director David Levy.
- The TSC will continue to work closely with the Vienna PD to understand **accident data** to highlight potential traffic safety issues and inform future efforts.
- The TSC continues to support capacity and safety improvements to the **W&OD Trail** within the Town of Vienna including a dual trail for both pedestrians and cyclists and ask that the Town of Vienna partner with NOVA Parks to achieve these upgrades.
- The TSC discussed and provided feedback on the **proposed traffic circle** for the Church and East intersection in the NE Quadrant.
- The TSC continues to support that the Town of Vienna move forward with the replacement of the asphalt path sections on **Park Street SE** between Battle Court and Fardale Street with concrete sidewalk to enhance pedestrian safety and sidewalk connectivity.
- The TSC supports the partnership of the Town of Vienna and **Capital Bikeshare** and the purchase and installation of bikeshare stations and bikes within Vienna. Bikesharing will provide transportation options as well as recreational usage of bicycles within the Town.
- At every meeting, the TSC discusses initiatives and projects related to **vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements** in the Town of Vienna and the broader community with the Department of Public Works (DPW) traffic engineer. These projects include the traffic signal project on Maple Ave, the Robinson Trust Sidewalk Projects, the installation of RRFBs (flashing pedestrian signs) at the Cottage Street and Plum St intersection, and Ayr Hill NW at Lawyers Rd Traffic Calming.
- DPW informs the TSC of **traffic control measures** and street striping that were installed that did not require the TSC review and approval. These notifications are to keep the TSC up-to-date on traffic safety measures in the Town and help the Commission make better informed decisions.
- The Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) and Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), operating under the guidance of the TSC, are doing very positive work as described below.

WORK of the BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- The BAC submitted an award application and the Town of Vienna was recognized in 2021 as a **Bicycle Friendly Community** by The League of American Bicyclists. The feedback provided by

- The League of American Bicyclists has and will continue to inform the work of the BAC.
- The BAC hosted guest speaker Finnoula Quinn speak to them about Traffic Gardens. Parks & Recreation Director Leslie Herman also attended.
 - The BAC organized a "Pit Stop" on the Town Green for **National Bike to Work Day** in May and hosted a **Community Bike Ride**. Both events were very successful. The BAC has planned a donut themed-bike ride for November 2nd.
 - The BAC plans to make improvements to the bicycle detour and to incorporate valet bicycle parking next year for **Viva!Vienna!**
 - The BAC worked with MPO Vasquez to create an article for the **Vienna Voice** newsletter on the subject of **bicycle safety** as referenced above.
 - The BAC discussed new bollards that have been installed on the trail bridge in Northside Park that seem to be a potential hazard to cyclists and discuss with Parks and Recreation.

WORK of the PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- The PAC have continued to support the **Maud Robinson Trust sidewalk** implementation, as well as other high priority sidewalks needs in town. The PAC recommended that the Town continue to provide citizens as much information as possible about where new sidewalks are being considered and are being constructed, including individual sidewalk segments in front of new homes.
- The PAC continues to champion and expand the **Eye-to-Eye Pedestrian Safety Advisory Campaign** intended to encourage pedestrians to make eye contact with vehicle operators before crossing streets. This campaign has received positive feedback from the community and the extensive media coverage in the DC Metro area.
- The PAC discussed the proposed **sidewalk snow removal plan** and the Town PIO about developing a communication campaign with the Town PIO that includes social media and an article in the Voice and social media.
- The PAC discussed the use of **e-bikes and e-scooters** on the W&OD. The PAC will work with IT to gain access to the GIS system that can be used to create interactive maps for the Town of Vienna.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS of the TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

The TSC supports the Vienna Voice article regarding Crosswalk and Bicycle Safety written by **MPO Juan Vasquez**.

The TSC and the PAC appreciate the support of the Town **PIO Karen Thayer** in developing a proposed sidewalk snow removal plan and communication campaign.

The members of the TSC would like to commend the Town staff who dedicate so much time, effort and expertise to the improvement of transportation, pedestrian and bicycle safety in Vienna, specifically **Andrew Jinks, Jennifer Sigler, and Sergeant Gucwa**. Members of the TSC, the BAC and PAC also would appreciate additional support and partnership with Town staff to support future efforts and initiatives.

FY26 INITIATIVES of the TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

The TSC will continue to review all petitions for transportation safety improvements and will place extensive emphasis on enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety in the Town of Vienna. The TSC with support from the BAC and PAC also plan to host Community Bicycle Rides, Bike to Work Day Pit Stop, and "walkabouts" as well as implement education and safety advisory campaigns in 2026.